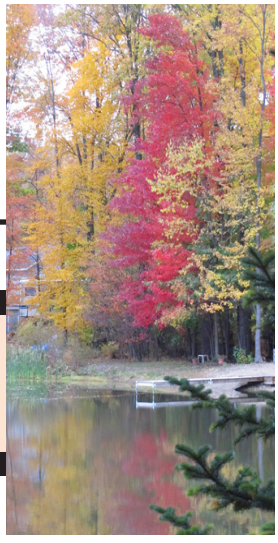
The Lights & Shadows
Grand Rapids Camera Club
October 2013 Vol.115 No.8 www.GRCameraClub.org



From Our President

Diane Durand

In Hawaii I will Slow Down, Relax and Focus on Taking Quality Images

I am heading out on vacation to relax, slow down and remind myself what is important in life. As I pack, I remember my last trip to Hawaii about ten years ago. Back then, I had to guess how many pictures I wanted to take so I could buy enough film to take with me. Although my number of images is nearly endless this time, the amount of equipment I am taking has greatly increased.

The rise of the digital camera has ushered in many changes in photography. In fact, photography itself used to be very inconvenient. Where in the past it may have taken several people to carry all of the heavy equipment, today we can hold the essentials in the palm of our hand. In Ansel Adams' day, a tripod was absolutely essential. Today, tripods are seen as a necessary evil or are completely discounted, having been replaced with some form of image stabilization. I struggled with the decision to take my tripod. It is heavy and I have to carry it on several flights over the course of my vacation. But then I remembered that I am going on vacation to relax and to slow down. At that moment, I knew the tripod would be traveling with me. It causes me to slow down, to take more time to set up my equipment and consider the image I want to capture.

With film, particularly in the beginning, photographers were required to plan their images before creating them. It was not practical to shoot hundreds of images to insure a handful of great ones. Thought was given to each and every frame captured. Photographers of old not only thought about location or subject, they carefully planned composition and framing. They considered time of day and how the light source, intensity and quality would affect their final product. Today, we spend more time deleting poor images and editing marginal ones than we do planning before we release the shutter.

I wonder what images I may have missed by rushing to not miss a shot. I will keep in mind that bigger, stronger and faster do not always mean better. We currently have an overabundance of convenience. I will not let the ease with which I can take a large quantity of pictures interfere with the quality of the images I create.
I will slow down and relax on my vacation.

Diane

Aloha!!!

Jeanne Quillan

Competition Corner

by Jeanne Quillan,
GRCC Competition Chairperson

"Why do I compete?" and "How am I doing?"

For those of us who enter regularly in the monthly competitions, do you ever ask yourselves these questions? Why do I enter my images? How do I think I am doing as a photographer? Our members enter for different reasons: Some enter because they want to show their images to others, some want input on how well they are doing, or how they compare with other photographers. Some simply like to see the scores add up. Me, I guess I enter because I like to show my work, but actually a little of all of those.

As I said last month, photography is meant to be shared, not sitting somewhere in the back of your hard drive. I do have to be honest, I do care what my score is, and when I get a high score I know I am hitting my mark.

The question is how many of you keep track of your scores, compare them and evaluate how you think you are doing as a photographer? As competition chairperson, part of my job is to keep track of the scores of all members. Before I began this article, I took a look see at how you were doing. Some of you have scores that are consistently honors, some have scores that seem to be always just average with few honors. I have seen many improve immensely since beginning to compete. And some, I see scores that were once good and are now falling. As we all know, judging is subjective, and sometimes a judge will give a lower score and sometimes a higher one. But if you keep track of them, and you see your scores are generally good, varying a few points from month to month, then you are doing well as a photographer. If you see them begin to improve overall, then great! Competing is doing just what it is meant to do! But if you notice your scores always seem to be in the same range, mostly just accepted, then you need to sit back and ask yourself how they can be improved.

Consequently, before you decide to quit entering, I want you to know that help is there for you. Our judges will be happy to give their opinion when asked. I am always willing to try to help if you are willing to accept an honest critique of your work. I can be reached at: photobug49@comcast.net or competition@grcameraclub.org
Judges are generally available at the monthly meetings as well.

TUESDAY Oct. 29 L&S

The Lights & Shadows
Grand Rapids Camera Club

Upcoming Newsletter Deadline

Newsletters are planned for every month except July and August.
If you have news, information or photos for the November Lights & Shadows, please get these submitted on or before October 29.
You can send them to the Lights & Shadows editor at: LSNewsEditor@grcameraclub.org

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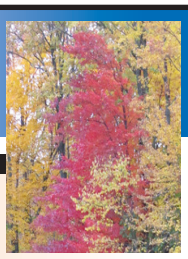
Grand Rapids Camera Club



Jan Lewis

Buying a New Lens or Camera? You Might Want to Rent First

by Jan Lewis

All of us are well aware that our photography hobby/passion is NOT a cheap one. Cameras are expensive and the glass we put on them can be even more expensive. Almost all of us have had the experience of standing in the camera store trying out a camera or lens with the salesperson standing over you. You take a couple shots around the store, perhaps out the store window and try to decide if this camera and/or lens is going to do the job you want. You are contemplating dropping hundreds of dollars, more likely thousands, and make a decision without putting the equipment through a "real world" test. Yes, there is often a "grace period" (14 days at our local store here in G.R.) when you can return the equipment, but most of us don't use that as a trial period.

If you are considering a large purchase (aren't they ALL large?) you might wish to consider renting a lens or camera prior to purchase. There are a number of camera rental companies, but the big three in my book are www.lensrentals.com, www.borrowlenses.com, and www.lensgiant.com.

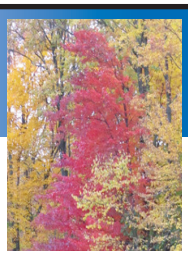
Adorama and B&H advertise rentals as well, though I have never used them to rent equipment. I have however used the three mentioned earlier. All of them offer the equipment for the BIG TWO (Canon and Nikon). Lensrentals and Borrowlenses also offer other camera manufacturers. One particularly nice feature of lensrentals.com site is that the companies president (Roger Cicala) gives his take on many items they rent. Because he is unbiased towards one brand over another and has the pleasure of having access to them all, he gives pros and cons and comparisons between different brands of lenses in a similar class (i.e. ultrawides Nikon vs. Tamron vs. Sigma).

They all have a wide range of cameras and lenses available for differing lengths of times. Your rental fees include shipping to your location as well as prepaid return shipping. It's an easy process and all of them have easy online shopping. You select the equipment, the length of rental time, whether you want the optional insurance coverage (a good idea...it's usually not very expensive) and where and when you want the equipment shipped. Since you MUST sign for delivery, be sure you are sending it to a destination that someone will be there to sign for it. (If you are renting for a vacation that involves flying, consider shipping to your final destination so you don't have to lug the equipment during your air travel.) Return is easy using the box the equipment was shipped in and the provided label. You just drop it off at your local UPS or FedEx location.

Because LensGiant is located in Michigan (the Detroit area), shipping charges to the West Michigan area tend to be less, and they generally require a single day for shipping. Their service is excellent, and they have a shorter minimum rental time than some of the others so I have used them more than once. All three have Facebook pages, and if you sign up with them either for emails or on FB you can find out about special deals they may be running. If you are a NAPP member you are entitled to discounts. Or if you check out Ron Martinsen's blog (http://www.ronmartblog.com) you can generally get a coupon code for one or all of them.

In the fall of 2012 I rented both a Canon 60D and a Canon 6D to test them out and see if they would deliver superior ISO performance over my current 50D camera.

(See RENT on Page 4)



(RENT - Continued from on Page 3)

After two days with my rental 6D, I knew I would purchase the camera. But the rental experience allowed me to accurately compare the two cameras in a way I couldn't have done at the camera counter. Likewise testing out an expensive lens taking pictures with YOUR camera in situations you normally shoot will give you a better idea of what a lens can deliver.

I have also rented lenses when going on a vacation. Need that 400mm for a safari or a wideangle or fisheye for a trip? If you are like me the many thousands of dollars it costs isn't in your budget for a lens you might use only sporadically? Rent it!

- Jan Lewis

Classified Section

Sekonic L-358 Flash Master - $250 Mint Condition. Barely Used.

Sekonic's compact flash and ambient meter provides great freedom combined with high precision. It features flash/ambient analyzing in all flash modes, and an optional plug-in internal radio transmitter module that eliminates the need for cord connections while measuring flash up to 100 feet away (when flash units are used with compatible radio receivers).

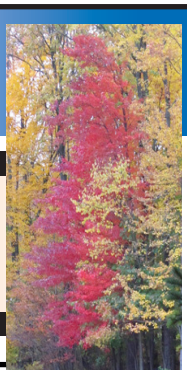
With options such as shutter speeds and apertures selectable in 1, 1/2 or 1/3 stop increments the L-358 makes operation most efficient by matching the displayed f/stop and shutter speed values to the photographer's camera. Additional features include all weather design, nine memory banks, a retractable lumisphere, included Lumigrid attachment for reflected metering and large cool-blue electro-luminescent backlit LCD.

The slim L-358 is ideal for professional photographers, cinematographers, and dedicated enthusiasts in the studio, on location or anywhere.

Call or text Jan Lewis: 616-446-7573 or jklewis52@gmail.com

The Classified Section is planned for the months of February, April, June and October. This is Free to GRCC members who have belonged to the club for at least a year. Each member can submit ONE photography-related item or service to be included in the Lights & Shadows on a one-time basis. You will need to include a photo of the item you are wanting to sell (or for the photographic service you are offering) along with a description, pricing and contact info.
Send your ad (and photo) to: LSNewsEditor@grcameraclub.org

The next Classified Section will appear in February, and the deadline for submitting your ad is Jan. 29.



Presentations & Workshops

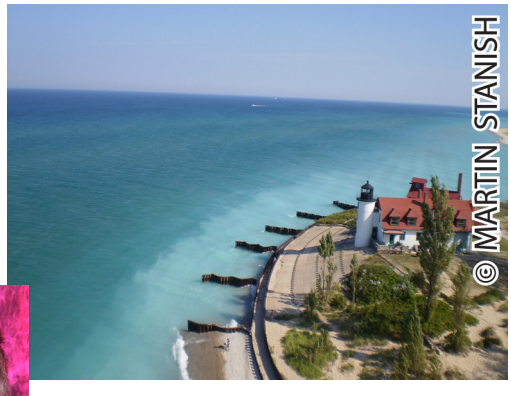
by Joe Hempstead
VP of Programs

Oct. 16 Weds.

Meeting Presentation: Kite/Balloon Aerial Photography

Presenter: Martin Stanish

Martin will talk about Kite and Balloon Aerial Photography. His presentation on this specialized photography should be interesting and may be inspiring as well.



Martin Stanish

About Martin Stanish:
By trade I am a machine design engineer for Dematic Rapistan. I have worked in this field for over 30 years. When I was a young lad, I was torn between either going into Photography or Engineering. I had to take a realist view of my talents and determined that I did not have the critical eye of an artist, so I went into Engineering. Fortunately, as a design engineer, I found that I could use photography to validate proper machine control through the use of high speed video, typically shooting at a frame rate between 1,000 and 10,000 frames per second. I also use still photography to document my designs and produce the required user manual. So in the long run, by choosing Engineering, I get paid for doing both.

As a hobby, I am interested in photographing what cannot be seen by the naked eye. I also like to combine my other hobbies that include kite flying, astronomy, and electronics. My interest in Kite Aerial Photography (KAP) was a natural choice, once it was introduced to me as part of a National Geographic special on photographing ancient ruins in remote locations.

Oct. 23 Weds.

October Workshop: Sharing Your Photos

7:00 pm

This roundtable discussion at the Boy Scout Building will cover getting your pictures out there for others to see. Camera Club members with experience in sharing their photos will discuss contests, gallery websites, in-store displays, and selling or donating your work. We will encourage all attending to participate in the discussion.

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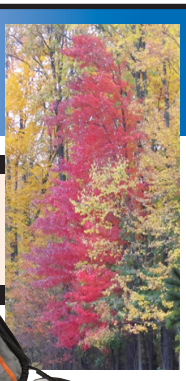


Steve Port

Timed Exposure - A Bit of Photographic History

by Steve Port

The Evolution of the Camera Bag

I was organizing in preparation to take in another trip down to ArtPrize when I paused to check the contents of my camera bag. I looked at the thing and subsequently my mind began to wander (not unusual for the retired set). I have read lots of stuff on the invention of cameras over time, but nothing on the evolution of camera containment.

I'm thinking the first means of camera transport was not a bag but a box. I picture Mathew Brady with his wagon full of gear unloading immense view camera boxes to record the aftermath of a Civil War battle. His visualization of the scene may have had lots of time to resolve as he assembled his kit one chunk at a time, slowly composing as he went so he could deliver a photo to match the event playing out in his mind's eye. It probably took many boxes and several hours to complete one shoot; not to mention post processing in his mobile darkroom.

When George Eastman came along, he had an idea for a mass-produced camera with extreme portability for everyone. Matt Brady's boxes were replaced by canvas/cloth/leather bags thrown over a shoulder and processing was magically performed at a postal address. The decisive moment was coined and captured by the thousands.

Edward Land had an idea for "instant" film that reduced our wait time yet again. We could shoot it and share it as quickly as we could locate an observer. Your Polaroid might still require a bag to contain a tripod, extra flash bulbs, more expensive film, and, of course, the smallish camera itself. Pre-visualizing the shot was and is still necessary, but in comparison with the rest of the process, seemed to be a large pause in an ever decreasing timeline.

Our current digital age is enabling even more speed from shot to visual consumption. Wireless devices can land an image on the internet almost before the event finishes. A compact camera or iPhone requires only a mere pocket for transport (no bag or box required). Visualizing a final image??? Not so often or maybe not so well.

So, what might we take from the evolution of the camera bag? I think it may be obvious. He or she with the smallest camera bag wins! Or not.

Thank You!

Thank You to Jan Lewis, Rosemary VanHouten and Garnette Port for the September treats!

-Caroline Shearer, Coffee & Treats Coordinator

The Lights & Shadows
Grand Rapids Camera Club

GRCC Image of the Month

by Jeanne Quillan

Beginning this month we will be featuring in the L & S an "Image of the Month". It will be one of the digital entries from the previous month's competition chosen by one of our judges. They will be choosing one that has a particular appeal to them and will not necessarily be the image that scores the highest. Each month's image will be chosen by a different member.

"Quiet Morning" by Charlene Rusch Selected by: Jeanne Quillan

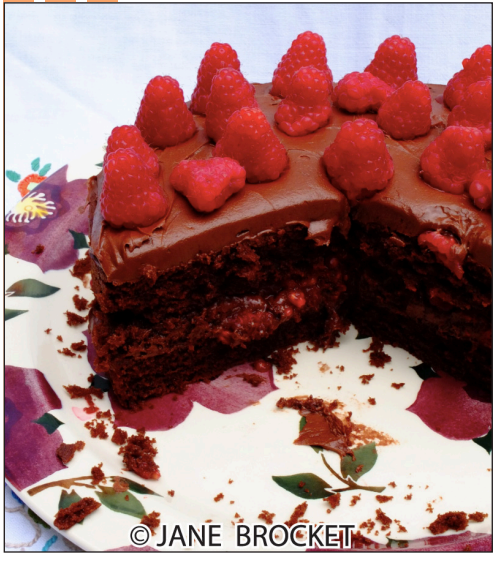
WHAT I SAW: I took that photo early one morning when visiting my sister in Curtis Michigan, on South Manistique Lake. I looked out and saw that it was hazy. I liked the sun shining on the boat, on the pipes of the boat rack, and the foggy look in of the trees across the lake…..Charlene

WHY I LIKED IT: It is calm, cool, serene and reflective. As we say in the judging and critiquing world, it has impact. The photo has very nice contrast between the fog in the background and the dock and boat in the foreground. Yet the green boat immediately draws your attention. It is tack sharp and perfectly mirrored in the water…..Jeanne

Jane Brocket Takes the Cake

by Greg Ferguson

I have been impressed with the photography of Jane Brocket from England. She has a blog that I follow and you may want to check out at:
http://yarnstorm.blogs.com/jane_brocket/2013/08/brocket-bakes.html



Jane usually doesn't do food photography, but this photo was "tastefully" done. It is entitled Cake Boss.

She photographs using natural light which keeps the colors in her photos true without having to do post editing.

Jane uses a Fujifilm X10 camera.

The Lights & Shadows
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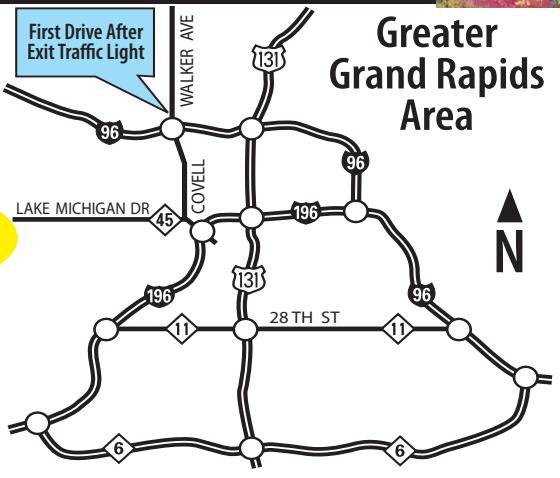
Visitors are Welcome to Attend our Meetings!

Regular Meetings are usually held the
3rd Wednesday of the month
except February, July, and August.

Time: 7:15 PM
Location: Boy Scouts of America
3213 Walker Ave. NW
Walker, MI

Visitors are always welcome!
The meetings are fun and informative.



Assigned Subjects

See our website for more specifics. Click on Competition Corner, and then click on the assigned subject to view a description.

2013	October.....Cemeteries	November.....ArtPrize	December.....Smoke
2014	January.....Reflections	May.....Kitchen Stuff	October.....Optical Illusions
	March.....Cars	June.....Graffiti	November.....Abstract
	April.....Curves	September....Fruits & Vegetables	December.....Clocks

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